

DESCRIPTION

Tomales Bay, a 28-km² bay on the west coast of Marin County, is one of the major estuaries on the Pacific Coast of California, supporting abundant wildlife, including marine mammals and migratory wildfowl. It is a very popular recreation area for kayaking, fishing, hiking, and sightseeing, and the Bay is one of four commercial oyster-growing areas in the State. Tomales Bay Ecological Reserve is located in the Bay.

The Bay receives Nonpoint Source (NPS) inputs from tributaries and runoff along the east and west shorelines. NPS inputs include runoff from animal waste (dairies and rangelands), failing septic systems, erosion of streambanks and roads, storm drains, and boating activities. Identified water quality impacts include seasonal closure of shellfish beds, high bacterial counts in several swimming areas along tributaries to the Bay, sedimentation of the estuary, and elevated mercury levels in fish.



Tomales Bluff and Mouth of Tomales Bay

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For more photos, visit:
www.californiacoastline.org.

REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

Tomales Bay was a 1998 303(d)-listed waterbody that flows into a **Marine Managed Area** (Tomales Bay Ecological Reserve), and was also one of the **original 25 CCAs** identified in 1995 as an impaired coastal waterbody.

POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)				Other Pollutant of Concern	
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	<u>Mercury</u>	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Pathogens</u>	<u>Sediment</u>	?	
Tomales Bay ▲	▲ Medium	▲ Medium	▲ High (2004)	▲ Medium		a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h
Lagunitas Creek ■		■ Low	■ Low	■ Medium		a, b, c, f, h
Walker Creek •	• Medium	• Medium		• Medium		a, b, c, f
Olema Creek ♦						
Other waterbodies □						a, b, c, d
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
Agriculture		▲ ■ •	▲ ■	▲ ■ •		a, b, c, d, f
➤ Intensive Animal Feeding Operations			▲			a, b, c, d, f
Urban Areas						
➤ Septic			▲			a, c, g
➤ Urban Runoff/ Storm Sewers		■	■	■		a, c, h
Marinas & Boating						a, c, d, e
Hydromodification						c, h
➤ Upstream Impoundment				▲		c, h

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Potential Sources of Pollutants, continued	Mercury	Nutrients	Pathogens	Sediment	?	Efforts to Address Pollutants
Resource Extraction						
➤ Surface Mining	•					
➤ Mine Tailings	▲ •					

MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

a)	Pathogens in Tomales Bay, Total Maximum Daily Load, Final Project Report, March 12, 2004			http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/tomalesbaypathogenstmdl.htm
SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board		Farhad Ghodrati	(510) 622-2331	fgghodrati@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan to reduce pathogens in Tomales Bay.				
b)	Implementation of Erosion Control and Agricultural Management Measures in Tomales Bay Watersheds			http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-mc/info.html
Marin Resource Conservation District		Nancy Scolari	(415) 663-1170	marinrcd@svn.net
➤ Variety of grant funded projects to reduce erosion, install fencing, other management practices on agricultural lands; includes outreach, education, technical assistance				
c)	Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan: A Framework for Action, July 2003			http://www.tomalesbaywatershed.org/stewardship.pdf
Tomales Bay Watershed Council		Neysa King	(415) 663-9092	tbwc@horizoncable.com
➤ Watershed stewardship plan including outreach, education, implementation actions to address NPS pollution				
d)	Tomales Bay: Guidelines for Protection and Use (2001)			http://www.nps.gov/pore/
Point Reyes National Seashore		Don Neubacher	(415) 464-5100	Don_Neubacher@nps.gov
➤ Guidelines for Park Service actions in Tomales Bay watershed				
e)	Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Joint Management Plan Review Recommendations			http://farallones.noaa.gov/
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary		Maria Brown	(415) 561-6622	maria.brown@noaa.gov
➤ Recommendations for management, including NPS measures				
f)	Tomales Bay Watershed Enhancement Program			website
Tomales Bay Agricultural Group/ University of California Cooperative Extension		Dave Lewis	(707) 565-2621	djllewis@ucdavis.edu
➤ Landowner-initiated project to address NPS pollution from dairies and rangelands, in cooperation with UC Cooperative Extension, Marin RCD, and NRCS. Implementation projects from fencing to streambank repair.				
g)	Protect Tomales Bay from Human Waste			http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/index.cfm
County of Marin, Community Development Agency		Philip Smith	(415) 499-7338	Psmith@co.marin.ca.us
➤ Grant funded project to investigate on site disposal system status and needs for Tomales Bay; implement repairs and upgrades, including options for developing community systems				
h)	Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP)			http://mcstoppp.org/
Marin County		Liz Lewis	(415) 499-7226	LizLewis@co.marin.ca.us
➤ Action plan to address nonpoint source runoff, including equestrian facility technical assistance program				

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REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program	http://mcstoppp.org/	Liz Lewis	(415) 499-7226	lizlewis@co.marin.ca.us
➤ Marin County, Community Development Dept.	http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/index.cfm	Thomas Lai	(415) 499-6292	tlai@co.marin.ca.us
➤ Marin County Parks and Open Space District	http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/main/	Ron Paolini	(415) 499-6390	rpaulini@co.marin.ca.us
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html	Lisa Sniderman	(415) 904-5270	lsniderman@coastal.ca.gov
➤ San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/	Rebecca Tuden	(510) 622-5685	btuden@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/	Karyn Gear	(510) 286-4171	kgear@scc.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Tomales Bay Ecological Reserve	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/index.html	Laura Rogers-Bennett	(707) 875-2035	rogersbennett@ucdavis.edu
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Region 3	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/	Tom Moore	(707) 875-4261	tmoore@dfg.ca.gov
➤ State Water Resources Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/	Diane Edwards	(916) 341-5908	dedwards@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ Calif. State Parks, North Bay District	http://www.parks.ca.gov/v/default.asp?page_id=470	David Boyd	(415) 898-4362	dboyd@parks.ca.gov
➤ California Dept. of Health Services	http://www.dhs.ca.gov/	Gregg Langlois	(510) 412-4635	glangloi@dhs.ca.gov
➤ Marin Resource Conservation District	http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-mc/info.html	Nancy Scolari	(415) 663-1170	marinrcd@svn.net
➤ NOAA, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	http://farallones.noaa.gov/	Maria Brown	(415) 561-6622	maria.brown@noaa.gov
➤ National Park Service, Point Reyes National Seashore	http://www.nps.gov/pore/	Sarah Allen	(415) 464-5187	Sarah_allen@nps.gov